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Weekend, December 16-18, 2016 metro.us | t: MetroPhilly | f: MetroPh

‘STAR WARS’ GOES ‘ROGUE’

We regret to inform the new spinoff is a bit of a con. 14 & 16

Mayor: Picketing tactic was ‘aggressive.’ 4

Emma Stone’s gotta sing, gotta dance. 18-19

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LETTING DOWN HIS GUARD

Eagles offensive guard Brandon Brooks opened up about how his fight with anxiety is keeping him off the field. A local expert explains why the lineman’s honesty could help save him. 2

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1. What did a suspected bank robber use to write his stick-up note, which police used to capture him?

2. Which Eagles running back is not currently injured?

3. Felicity Jones says which holiday movie is an annual must-see before Christmas?

3 things you need to know

TRUMP RENEWS QUESTIONS ABOUT RUSSIA HACKING

Donald Trump raised more questions about Russia's reported role in cyber attacks on U.S. political parties and individuals as well as the timing of the White House's response under President Barack Obama. "If Russia, or some other entity, was hacking, why did the White House wait so long to act? Why did they only complain after Hillary lost?" Trump wrote in a post on Twitter. Trump and his staff have repeatedly dismissed reports over the Russian hacking as "ridiculous," and said Democrats are upset that Trump won the Nov. 8 presidential election over their candidate, Hillary Clinton. In October, the U.S. government formally accused Russia of a campaign of cyber attacks against U.S. political organizations ahead of the election. Obama said he warned Russian President Vladimir Putin about consequences and last week ordered a review by the U.S. intelligence agencies. The CIA has assessed that the attacks were aimed at helping Trump win the 2016 election, a position not endorsed by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence or the FBI, according to a senior U.S. official. REUTERS

DEVRY UNIVERSITY AGREES TO $100M SETTLEMENT WITH FTC

2 DeVry University, one of a series of for-profit schools under scrutiny because of deceptive ads, has agreed to settle with the Federal Trade Commission for $100 million, the agency said on Thursday. Under the settlement, DeVry will forgive $50.6 million in debt owed by students for tuition and fees as well as pay $49.4 million to students harmed by the deceptive ads. DeVry had been accused of falsely claiming that 90 percent of graduates found jobs in their field within six months of graduating, among other false assertions. REUTERS

INSTAGRAM'S USER BASE CROSSES 600 MILLION

3 Instagram's user base rose to more than 600 million, the Facebook Inc owned company said on Thursday, as new features helped it gain popularity. The photo-sharing app added 100 million users since June, when it last announced its 500 million user milestone, the company said in a blog post. Since then, the company launched Instagram Stories, its picture and video slideshow feature, identical to the signature function of rival Snap Inc's Snapchat. Instagram in September updated its safety tools by allowing users to control the comments posted on their pictures and videos to combat increasing cases of online trolling. The company, which is expected to add to Facebook's revenue, is on track to generate $1.5 billion in advertising revenue this year, according to research firm eMarketer. REUTERS

Ryan Mathews (No. 24) runs with the ball alongside Brandon Brooks against the Atlanta Falcons at Lincoln Financial Field. GETTY IMAGES

Eagles' Brooks 'courageous' for fight against anxiety

"His disclosure and taking it public and being honest about it — that can bring relief, too," a renowned Philly sports psychologist says.

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Traumatic head injury has become a hot-button issue for the sport of football.

Seemingly countless stories have been written about former NFL players whose lives have been shortened or worsened by head injuries that are a consequence of the violent nature of the game.

Overshadowed are other aspects of mental illness which afflict people in all walks of life. NFL players are not immune to psychological disorders as the news media highlighted this week in reporting the story of Eagles offensive lineman Brandon Brooks.

Brooks — rated by Pro Football Focus as one of their top 25 linemen this season — has missed two of the Eagles last three games due to severe stomach issues. The cause was not a virus or infection. The symptoms were stemming from his mind.

"I wanted to get to the bottom of what's going on," Brooks told the media this week. "Basically, I found out recently that I have an anxiety condition. What I mean by anxiety condition [is] not nervousness or fear of the game.

"What it is, is that I have, like, an obsession with the game. It's an unhealthy obsession right now and I'm working with team doctors to get everything straightened out and getting the help that I need and things like that."

Brooks signed a five-year, $40 million contract in the offseason, and has played football his entire life. The 27-year-old guard bravely came clean about his condition after the Eagles brass made sure to protect his privacy in the weeks during his absences from the team's games — all losses.

There is no difference between the percentage of professional, college or high school athletes battling anxiety than the regular population, according to Dr. Joel Fish, director of the Center for Sports Psychology in Philadelphia.

"It's courageous that he raised [the issue]."

Dr. Joel Fish

"It's courageous that he raised [the issue]," Fish said. "It's to all of our benefit that we normalize talking about it. To me it's very encouraging he has played through college and has played six years in the pros. He's had the ability to control this, so he's been able to succeed at the highest levels. If it had been something more severe and prolonged, if he hadn't already developed coping strategies to deal with it, he wouldn't have been elevated to this level."

Professional sports is a multibillion-dollar industry. Every move a professional athlete makes is scrutinized by millions of people. Brooks may be one of the few NFL players who has come out publicly with an anxiety issue, but there's certainly no shortage of them (Ricky Williams, whose career ended early due to anxiety, for example) — whether we know their names or not.

"To be able to compete, let go of mistakes and have your performance analyzed by millions of people — that's part of an athlete's growth," Fish said. "I think in terms of my work, whether someone is a rookie, a veteran, part of the athlete is continually learning how to improve the technical part of the game and the mental part of the game."

The good news is, unlike when a football player has a torn ACL, talking about it can actually really help, he said.

"His disclosure and taking it public and being honest about it — that can bring relief, too."

Brooks was a full participant in practice this week, ahead of the Eagles' road tilt with the Ravens.

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Councilwoman Maria Quinones-Sanchez speaks with protesters from ACTION United in her office at City Hall in Center City Philadelphia. CHARLES MOSTOLLER

Mayor's office sent activists to 'corner' councilwoman, emails reveal

Kenney acknowledges that his staff's move to organize activists to picket a councilwoman was "aggressive."

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"Today it's me, tomorrow it will be another one of my colleagues if they don't fall in line."

Maria Quinones-Sanchez

In the weeks leading up to City Council's passage of the new sweetened drinks tax, the debate over the tax was getting heated.

So heated, in fact, that Mayor Jim Kenney's chief of staff decided to help send activists from ACTION United to "corner" City Councilwoman Maria Quinones Sanchez, who opposed the tax.

"Have we made any progress on getting them to deliver statement to Maria to pledge not take soda $$$?" wrote Jane Slusser, Kenney's chief of staff, in a May 11 email to a consultant working with the activists. "There is an event tomorrow where we know she'll be and could corner her out in front with cameras."

City&StatePA broke the story after obtaining the email through a Right-to-Know request.

Kenney wasn't aware of their plot, a spokeswoman said.

The mayor issued a statement Thursday defending his staff's intentions.

"While I believe it was fair for my staff to draw attention to the soda industry's attempts to buy votes, I understand how you could look back now and say that their methods were aggressive," the statement reads.

"At the time, it probably seemed like a drop in the bucket compared to what the soda industry and their allies were orchestrating. But, looking back, we agree, no matter the circumstances, taking the high road is always the right thing to do. What's important now is that we focus on ensuring the tax benefits as many of our pre-K babies and neighborhoods as possible. They have already waited for too long."

ACTION United didn't corner Quinones-Sanchez on May 12, when she attended a City Hall news conference for Kenney to sign an executive order for the Language Access Philly program. But they did storm her offices four days later.

The organization didn't respond to requests for comment,

Quinones-Sanchez called the tactics "disrespectful."

"Today it's me, tomorrow it will be another one of my colleagues if they don't fall in line," she said. "I'm more disappointed that he still hasn't apologized and just thinks it's campaign theatrics."

Quinones-Sanchez stressed that she supports the initiatives the soda tax is supposed to fund — universal pre-K, the Rebuild program, and community schools.

"I agreed with the initiative. I disagreed with the funding mechanism. That should not make me the target of an ambush," she said. "Tactics like embarrassing a councilwoman are not a policy debate."

The 1.5-cent-per-ounce tax on sweetened drinks is set to take effect Jan. 1.

An expanded version of this story can be seen at metro.us

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Tanya Brown-Dickerson stands blocking traffic with protesters rallying on the second anniversary of the death of her son Brandon, who was fatally shot by police after a traffic stop. SAM NEWHOUSE

Protesters say justice still denied in Tate-Brown shooting

Activists still want the cops involved in the 2014 shooting of Brandon Tate-Brown to be punished.

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In the two years since the controversial police shooting of a black man who was pulled over for driving without headlights, the city has instituted changes to address such situations.

To the family of the slain man, Brandon Tate-Brown, the changes do nothing to remedy what they deem an injustice.

The family and members of Black Lives Matter marked the second anniversary of Tate-Brown's death on Thursday with a protest in Center City.

Protesters blocked rush-hour traffic around City Hall outside the Philadelphia District Attorney's office and called for the prosecution of the officers who shot Tate-Brown.

"Do I feel like this is useless? Sometimes," said Tanya Brown-Dickerson, Tate-Brown's mother. "But this was my child. So I have to keep fighting. ... I'm going to block this street every year."

In the years since the shooting, the Philadelphia Police Department has adopted a policy of identifying officers who shoot their guns within 48 hours.

The DA's office last month instituted new policies to send a prosecutor to the scenes of all shootings by police, and to release their investigative files to the public.

"I'm glad the next family in our place won't have to go through the same things we went through," said Asa Khalif, a Black Lives Matter activist and cousin of Tate-Brown.

But he added that he believes DA Seth Williams' new policies were "politically motivated" and said he still wants the officers who shot Tate-Brown punished.

"There's no statute of limitations for murder," he said. "These two police officers can still be held accountable."

Tate-Brown, 26, was shot after being pulled over in Frankford in the early morning hours of Dec. 15, 2014. Police said he was stopped because he was driving with his headlights off.

The traffic stop turned into a struggle after officers spotted a handgun in Tate-Brown's car. Surveillance video released to media showed Tate-Brown struggling with officers before being shot as he ran toward his car. Original police accounts described Tate-Brown diving into the car where the gun was when he was shot.

Williams declined to press charges in the case. Former Mayor Michael Nutter later released the names of the officers involved in the shooting and other investigative materials related to the case.

Brown-Dickerson is currently suing the city in federal court. Her lawsuit may to go to trial as early as 2017.

"Do I feel like this is useless? Sometimes," said Tanya Brown-Dickerson, Tate-Brown's mother. "But this was my child. So I have to keep fighting. ... I'm going to block this street every year."

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Pennsylvania lawmaker seeks to punish sanctuary campuses

Republican Rep. Jerry Knowles plans to introduce the bill in January.

ALEXIS SACHDEV
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Immigrants' rights activists protest outside City Hall in 2015 against a plan to establish a closer relationship between Philadelphia police and the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. CHARLES MOSTOLLER

A Republican state representative is looking to punish Pennsylvania universities that vow to protect undocumented students by threatening their state funding.

Rep. Jerry Knowles plans to introduce a bill next month that would withhold state funds from colleges and universities that serve as so-called sanctuary campuses. They are schools that refuse to hand over to federal authorities information about students who are undocumented immigrants. These sanctuary campuses — derived from the term "sanctuary cities" — would also refuse to permit federal immigration officials on campus without warrants, a measure the University of Pennsylvania has adopted, the Philadelphia Inquirer reported.

> *"Penn is and has always been a 'sanctuary' — a safe place for our students to live and to learn."*
> Amy Gutmann

"Turning a blind eye to illegal conduct for the sake of making some kind of political statement on this nation's immigration policy endangers the lives of those that the institution should be protecting," Knowles wrote in a memo to fellow members of the House earlier this month. His district includes parts of Berks, Schuylkill and Carbon counties.

Knowles' bill reportedly has 26 backers, including some Democrats, but he declined to reveal their names to the Inquirer. For approval from the Republican-controlled Senate, and eventually Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf, the bill would require approval from at least half of the House's 203 members.

The University of Pennsylvania and Swarthmore, both privately funded institutions, have made open declarations of their sanctuary status.

"Penn is and has always been a 'sanctuary' — a safe place for our students to live and to learn," the university's president, Amy Gutmann, announced in an email last month to students and faculty. "We assure you that we will continue in all of our efforts to protect and support our community including our undocumented students."

And last week, Swarthmore President Valerie Smith wrote in an email that the Delaware County private college would also protect undocumented students:

An expanded version of this story can be seen at metro.us

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Roof found guilty of federal hate crimes

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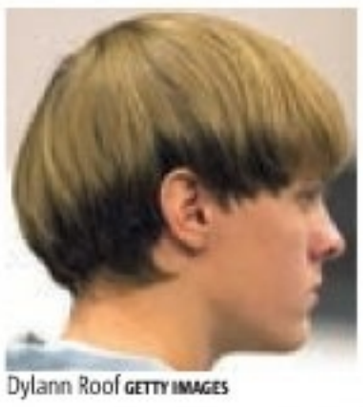
Dylann Roof GETTY IMAGES

A jury Thursday found avowed white supremacist Dylann Roof guilty of federal hate crimes resulting in the deaths of nine black parishioners at a historic church in Charleston, South Carolina, last year.

Jurors also said Roof, 22, was guilty of firearms violations and obstructing the exercise of religion for those he shot and killed during a Bible study at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church on June 17, 2015.

The guilty verdicts on all 33 federal charges he faced pave the way for the penalty phase of Roof's trial, which is set to begin on Jan. 3. He has indicated he will serve as his own lawyer as prosecutors pursue a death sentence.

The jury rendered its verdict after hearing six days of testimony in Charleston, a city on edge in recent weeks as two racially charged trials played out in courthouses across the street from each other in the heart of downtown.

A state murder trial against a former North Charleston police officer who shot and killed a black man fleeing a traffic stop last year ended on Dec. 5 in a mistrial after jurors deadlocked.

Whether Roof carried out the mass shooting that intensified the debate about race relations in the United States was not in dispute.

But his defense lawyers, hoping to spare him from execution, asked jurors to consider what factors had driven Roof to commit the senseless act and suggested he might be delusional.

The defense did not call any witnesses after the trial judge blocked them from presenting evidence of Roof's mental state during the guilt phase of the trial.

During closing arguments on Thursday, prosecutors dismissed the defense's position and said Roof's guilt had been proved "beyond any doubt, much less reasonable doubt." REUTERS

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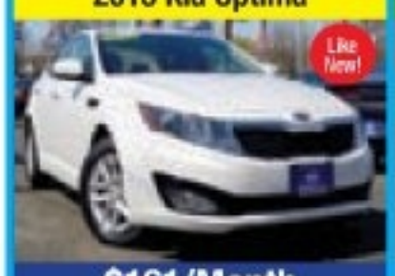

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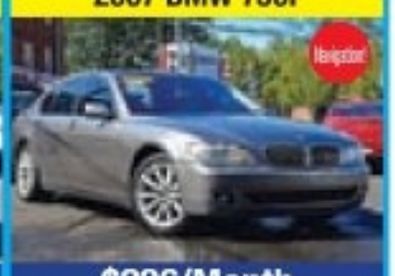

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Verizon considers changing Yahoo deal after latest breach

Yahoo said that it had uncovered a 2013 cyber attack that compromised data of more than 1 billion user accounts, the largest breach in history.

Verizon Communications Inc. is looking at ways to modify its $4.8 billion deal to buy Yahoo Inc.'s core internet business after the technology company disclosed a second massive data breach, sources told Reuters on Thursday.

Yahoo Inc. shares fell almost 5 percent after the breach of data belonging to more than 1 billion users was disclosed, following another large hack reported in September.

Verizon is seeking to persuade Yahoo to amend the terms of the acquisition agreement made in July to reflect the economic impact of the data breaches, according to people familiar with the matter.

The telecommunications company has threatened to go to court to get out of the deal if it is not repriced, citing a material adverse effect, said the sources, who asked not to be identified because the negotiations are confidential.

Verizon still expects to go through with the deal, but is looking for "major concessions" in light of the most recent breach, according to another source familiar with the situation, who wished to remain anonymous because they are not permitted to speak to the media.

Verizon logo on its building in New York City. GETTY IMAGES

The person did not know what kind of concessions Verizon is pushing for.

Verizon had already said in October it was reviewing the deal after September's breach disclosure. Late on Wednesday, it said it would "review the impact of this new development before reaching any final conclusions" about whether to proceed.

REUTERS

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States sue Mylan, Teva, others for fixing drug prices

Mylan CEO Heather Bresch GETTY IMAGES

Twenty states filed a lawsuit Thursday against Mylan NV, Teva Pharmaceuticals and four other generic-drug makers, saying they conspired on pricing of two common generic drugs, according to a copy of the complaint.

The civil suit is one piece of a broader generic drug-pricing probe that remains under way at the state and federal level, as well as in Congress. The inquiries have grown over the past two years to include multiple drugs and companies, some of which have disclosed they are being investigated by the Justice Department.

The drugs involved in Thursday's lawsuit include the delayed release version of a common antibiotic, doxycycline hyclate; and glyburide, an older drug used to treat diabetes.

The lawsuit, filed in the U.S. District Court for the District of Connecticut, names Heritage Pharmaceuticals Inc. as a "ring leader" of the price manipulation, and also lists Mayne Pharma, Aurobindo Pharma and Citron Pharma LLC as participants.

Asked for comment Thursday, a Heritage spokesman referred to the company's comment from the previous day, which blamed former executives for the price-fixing and said they had been terminated. Heritage is part of Indian company Emcure Pharmaceuticals.

Mylan denied the charge. "To date, we know of no evidence that Mylan participated in price fixing," Mylan spokeswoman Nina Devlin said by email.

Teva spokeswoman Denise Bradley said by email the company had just received the complaint and was reviewing it.

The other three companies had no immediate comment.

The lawsuit alleges that top executives of the drug companies and their sales executives propped up the prices of the two drugs either by setting the prices or allocating markets, the New York attorney general's office said in the statement.

The states also say in their lawsuit that executives knew that the conduct was illegal and either deleted emails or made efforts to avoid communicating in writing. REUTERS

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In "Rogue One," Felicity Jones' Jyn Erso joins up with a team — that also includes Diego Luna and a funny robot voiced by Alan Tudyk — hell-bent on stealing the plans to the first Death Star.
JONATHAN OLLEY

wknd

Don't call Felicity Jones 'sassy'

THE FUN STARTS HERE

The Oscar nominee didn't want her "Rogue One" hero to be just a tough female character.

MATT PRIGGE
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Felicity Jones' life has changed a lot over the last two years. Back then, the English actress had just scored an Oscar nomination for "The Theory of Everything," as Stephen Hawking's now-ex-wife, Jane. That led to her getting cast as the lead in no less than the new "Star Wars" spin-off. "Rogue One" tells the tale of the team, including Jones' Jyn Erso, that steals the plans for the first Death Star, leading to the events of the first "Star Wars." Jyn is steely and capable, but Jones never wanted her to be a typical tough female character.

Jones, 33, talks to us about her history with "Star Wars" and the one adjective she hopes no one uses to describe Jyn Erso.

I'd actually heard, from a British friend, that there's a tradition in England where on Christmas Day, families watch all three "Star Wars" films, plus some "Wallace and Gromit." Is that true for everyone?

[Laughs] I'm not sure if it's a nationwide tradition, but there's definitely family viewings of a film in our household, in which grandparents fall asleep. We've gone and watched everything. We've watched "2001: A Space Odyssey," we've watched "Gone with the Wind." "Wallace and Gromit" is definitely a staple; that comes after you have your big epic. Also "Love Actually" has to be seen at some point during the Christmas period.

So you're not watching "Star Wars" every year?

I watched it when I was a young girl and was captivated by it. I remember thinking the opening crawl was moving too fast. My cousins and my brother, they were a bit older, so I wanted to do everything they did. And they were huge fans of "Star Wars."

They're interesting to return to once you've gotten older and maybe snootier. It's easier to see how political they are, as well as character-driven.

What's so special about Luke Skywalker and Han Solo and Princess Leia is they're really relatable. We wanted that in "Rogue One." We didn't want them to be these pumped-up, muscle-y, unobtainable superheroes. They're all really ordinary, ordinary people in an extraordinary situation.

Jyn is a first in the "Star Wars"-verse: She never becomes a damsel in distress. Yet however tough she is she's still vulnerable.

We didn't want her to be just tough and — I hate this word — sassy. [Laughs] If anyone described her as "sassy" I'd just want to be sick in my mouth. She has real spirit and real optimism and hope. She has an innocence, but things haven't always gone according to plan. She's a bit damaged and there's real pain there. At the same time we wanted to have fun with her.

GETTY IMAGES

I'm glad that movies don't have those kinds of strong female characters much anymore, where they're basically just men with the gender switched. They're very complex and believable now.

Exactly. We went through that period, and now we're coming out the other side.

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JONATHAN OLLEY

"Rogue One: A Star Wars Story"

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In "Rogue One," there's no classic "Star Wars" fanfare, no drab text crawl ascending into the horizon. After the "A long time ago" jazz, we're right in the thick of it. If you found "The Force Awakens" slavishly faithful to the original trilogy (but still delightful), you might get excited. Maybe this prequel/spin-off — about the Rebel mission to procure plans for the first Death Star, leading into the events of "A New Hope" — will actually be its own beast. Maybe it will offer not what we want but something similar yet different. Maybe it won't drown in fan service but look forward, even as it's technically looking back in time. Maybe.

It takes a good while to realize this is a con. It will turn into just another "Star Wars" fan-fic, with shout-outs and call-backs and nods eventually piling up like cars in a John Landis movie, like "The Blues Brothers." Clumsily plotted and often flat-out stupid — halfway through, a key McGuffin is lost simply because someone forgot to grab it, which is just lazy — "Rogue One" boasts thin characters played by great actors scampering about far too many planets with names that sound like obscure venereal diseases. It's a "Star Wars" knockoff that happens to look a lot like a "Star Wars" movie.

The hero, at least, is definitely new. She's Jyn Erso (Felicity Jones), orphaned by Imperial goons, who killed her mother and kidnapped her scientist father (Mads Mikkelsen), forcing him to design the Death Star. She reluctantly joins up with the Rebellion, then lights off on a possible suicide mission along with a motley, rainbow-colored crew, not a one of them a white, American male, which is apparently controversial.

Problem is, no one on the team is particularly interesting. They're played by interesting actors, stuck with characters defined by a single tic. Riz Ahmed is a pilot. Jiang Wen has a big gun. Donnie Yen is a blind, Zatoichi-esque ass-kicker. Diego Luna is almost fascinating: a rebel since a wee one, he's haunted by a long past riddled with unethical deeds done in the name of good. That's a fruitful idea the film brings up only to drop — there to give the film the illusion of complexity.

That's "Rogue One" in a nutshell: a collection of good things scattered here, there and everywhere. Even these good things — the fine cast, its diverse heroes and a darker, grittier feel — start to feel like calculated distractions from the gaping void at the center.

Not much can distract from the film's worst move: the frequent appearances of Peter Cushing, who played Death Star honcho Tarkin in the first "Star Wars." Cushing died in 1994 but here he is, digitally replicated before our eyes, because Fred Astaire selling vacuums beyond the grave in '90s commercials wasn't creepy enough. When it starts, "Rogue One" plays like the cool runt of the franchise's litter. By the end, it's a depressing reminder that, awful as the prequels were, at least they had character. MP

"Jackie"

●●●●○

FOX SEARCHLIGHT

"Jackie" is a deep, deep stew in misery, grief and fear for a gloomy future. In other words, it's perfect for right now. This long post-election moment shall pass, before transforming into who knows what. Our heroine is in a similar funk, though her pain is far more personal and visceral than ours: She is, after all, Jacqueline Kennedy (Natalie Portman), and her husband has just been murdered.

"Jackie" isn't about the JFK assassination, and not much of historical or biographical note happens. Instead it's a partly speculative account of the days after the tragedy, when the first lady brooded, lashed out, acted out and guzzled Stoli while listening to "Camelot."

For Portman, this could have been mere Oscar bait. But she has to be despondent more than she is shouty and show-offy. Director Pablo Larrain ("No") keeps the camera inches from her face and makes a movie that really moves, trailing a woman whose emotional throughline resembles a runaway roller coaster. MATT PRIGGE

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Emma Stone nerds out over musicals

The Oscar nominee talks about "La La Land" and getting horribly sick on Broadway.

MATT PRIGGE
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Emma Stone cracks a joke pretty much immediately as our "La La Land" phone interview starts. Typically, these chats begin with some awkward banter before you find a groove (or not). But even saying "hello" is something Stone does like a goofball. And she gets to talk about something she loves: musicals.

As a kid, the actress, now 28, was a regular at her local youth theaters. But it wasn't until Stone's 2014-15 Broadway stint as Sally Bowles in "Cabaret" that she really got to show the whole world her stuff. Now she's in "La La Land," an old-fashioned musical movie that reunites her for the third time with Ryan Gosling. The two play struggling Angelenos who fall in love while hoofing and crooning up a storm.

What was your favorite role you had as a musical theater kid?
I was in a lot of stuff. A truly beloved musical for me that not a lot of people know is "Titanic," the musical. It was on Broadway for less than a year [Ed.: in 1997]. The only person I know who is equally obsessed with it is Jesse Eisenberg. I was in that at my local youth theater. I was Stewardess Robinson, who survived at the end. But I've never gotten to play my dream role — well, that was Sally Bowles in "Cabaret." But I haven't gotten to play my other, deep, deep-down dream role, which is Lucy in "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown." [Laughs]

GETTY IMAGES

You should use your clout to bring that back to Broadway.
You think that would rock it right now?

I think we all need Charlie Brown right about now.
OK, good. Let's make it happen.

You did "La La Land" shortly after your "Cabaret" stint. Did that make it easier or harder?
It was kind of both. When [director Damien Chazelle] was first talking to me about it, I was sick as a dog in "Cabaret." He had come to see me and I was on all this cold medicine. I was so hopped up I didn't even know where I was, but I was on stage. I was like, "You realize I'm dying here, right? I'm so sick and I have no voice. How are we even talking about a musical?" Even though I was having the time of my life during "Cabaret." It was my favorite experience I've had as an actor, hands-down. But the idea of doing it again, for months and months, and on-screen and it will last forever — that was really overwhelming.

I didn't know you were sick on "Cabaret."
Oh my God, I got sick so many times. Oh my Lord.

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Having already shared the screen in "Crazy, Stupid, Love" and "Gangster Squad," Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone do it again in the musical "La La Land," in theaters today. DALE ROBINETTE

Alan Cumming [her "Cabaret" co-star] was like, "Darling, I'm very worried about you. You need to become a vegan." I was like, "I need to become a vegan right now? What is going on?!" [Laughs] I was always sick and he was eating flour or whatever. But it also taught me to go easier on myself as an actor. I'm incredibly hard on myself. And there's not really much you can do when you are completely sick and the show must go on.

Was there something on "La La Land" that was particularly difficult — a number, possibly?
Rehearsing the duet [between her and Gosling, near Griffith Observatory] was fun and took a long time. It was one take, on the hill, dancing together. We would go to Griffith on the weekend to rehearse on that hill. It felt really good when we got it.

Was there a take that was perfect and then someone screwed one little thing up?
There was one that was really good and then I fell off the bench. I was like, "F—! We have to do it again?"

I hope you didn't hurt yourself.
No, I was fine, thank you for being so concerned.

I guess you can survive anything after "Cabaret."
Yes, exactly. I was sick on stage, I can make it through anything.

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3 Things to watch for as the Eagles try to play spoilers in Baltimore

The Eagles are playing for pride — and to embarrass their I-95 rivals.

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Will the Eagles' secondary — and pass rush — have better luck against Joe Flacco than the other recent quarterbacks who embarrassed them? GETTY IMAGES

The Eagles have less than a one percent chance of making the playoffs.

They need 10 different specific scenarios to play out, along with winning their final three games to make the postseason at 8-8.

Sitting at 5-8 and heading to Baltimore for their final road game of the season, the Eagles know their season is pretty much over from a competition standpoint. But there is still a lot to play for. The team doesn't hold it's own draft pick so there's no reason to tank. Might as well try and return to winning ways.

Here are three things we'd like to see in Sunday's 1 p.m. game on FOX:

1 Back on the Wentz Wagon?

After a stretch of truly dreadful play and — dare we say — regression, Carson Wentz looked like his old self in last week's loss to the Redskins, posting yet another 300 yard game. As the season nears its conclusion, there is a lot of wear and tear from Wentz' reps. He's thrown the fifth most passes in the NFL so far.

"I'd love to manage that a little bit more for him," head coach Doug Pederson said. "I think it's putting him in a tough situation."

With Ryan Mathews back, but Wendell Smallwood and Darren Sproles out, running the ball will be tough. Especially against the Ravens tough run defense.

"I would love to be able to manage it and lean on that offensive line more with the run game," the coach said. "Obviously, we're going against a tough run defense this week, and yet we still have to be patient with that to help our quarterback."

2 Figuring out Flacco

Joe Flacco has, more or less, had a Joe Flacco kind of season with 17 touchdowns, 12 interceptions and just over 3,500 yards thus far.

Going up against an Eagles defensive secondary that has been torn apart by the likes of Kirk Cousins, Andy Dalton and Aaron Rodgers in recent weeks, Flacco will have the opportunity to move the ball Sunday.

"He's really a level-headed quarterback. He doesn't make a lot of mistakes," Eagles defensive coordinator Jim Schwartz said. "If you give him enough time, he can throw good, strong, accurate passes. Even though he's coming off the knee injury, he's still a threat to scramble. He's sneaky that way. Still a threat to run, still a threat to scramble. A lot of respect for that guy. He's won a Super Bowl and has made a lot of plays. The game's never over his head I guess you'd say. I think I've heard it before, his nickname, Joe Cool. I think you can see that in the way he plays.

3 Big picture

The most important thing during these next three games will be to see how certain players and units perform under the pressure of facing opponents who need victories more than the Eagles do.

The Ravens and next week's opponent, the Giants, will be fighting hard to make the postseason — and Week 17's game against Dallas could be important for seeding and home-field advantage.

Will Carson Wentz continue to improve? Will the pass rush end on a good note and find their way to the quarterback again? Which cornerbacks (if any) will show they belong in Philadelphia next season?

These questions and more will be answered over the next few weeks as Howie Roseman and company watch closely.

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21st Century Storage
3503 North B Street,
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Phone - (215) 423-4000
Property contained in the following units located at 3503 N. B St will be sold via online auction at STORAGETREASURES.COM on December 19, 2016 at 11:00 A.M., to the highest bidder to satisfy the owners lien for rent under 73 p.s. 1901 et. seq. Auction is with reserve, 21st Century Storage reserves the right to set the minimum bids and refuse bids. Cash or credit card ONLY. Contents must be paid for 12/19 and removed within 48 hours.
Jakub Malesa A113 — Rosa Nerys Diaz K101
Christopher Gonzalez B115 — Lamar Smith P427
Mailette Perez F519 — Erica Rodriguez S159
Courtland Young G604 — Freddy Bautista T168
Nestor Pagan G629 — Venesa Delvalle T816
Samantha Jones G654 — Rene Rivera W228

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safeguard self storage
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Purchases must be paid at the time with Credit Card or Cash. All Purchases are sold within 72 hours of the time of sale. A $100.00 Cash clean up deposit is required until all items in the unit are removed from the premises and verified by manager on duty. Sale subject to cancellation up to the time of sale, company reserves the right to refuse any online bids.
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#3524-Tyhesah Clark • #1306-Dawn Johnson
#2438-Loree Dowtin • #2233-Melisa Eastburn
#2441-Yanira Ocasio • #2311-Edward Porchea • #3554-VAN STEWART
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#2808-Margaret Newell, #2306-Keith Mitchell, #1802-Lorraine Geraghty, #0117-Lorraine Geraghty
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Purchases must be paid at the time with Credit Card or Cash. All Purchases are sold within 72 hours of the time of sale. A $100.00 Cash clean up deposit is required until all items in the unit are removed from the premises and verified by manager on duty. Sale subject to cancellation up to the time of sale, company reserves the right to refuse any online bids. Auction by StorageTreasures.com | Phone: 800-213-4183

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Carl Richardson Unit # 0302, Stephen Smolczynski Unit # 0434, Paul Nail Unit # 1106, Thalaine Thompson Unit # 1128, John Peppiatt Unit # 1317, Crystal Bonringer Unit # 1322, Chris Hammond Unit # 1600, Shalonda Greene Unit # 1612, Elliott Webster Unit # 1614, Achakir Campfield Unit # 2109, Joseph Weise Unit # 2206, Kelly Cunningham Unit # 2263, Fortune Hudson Unit # 2306, Rosie Vasquez Unit # 2424, Megan McGinty Unit # 3443.
Purchases must be paid at the time with Credit Card or Cash. All Purchases are sold within 72 hours of the time of sale. A $100.00 Cash clean up deposit is required until all items in the unit are removed from the premises and verified by manager on duty. Sale subject to cancellation up to the time of sale, company reserves the right to refuse any online bids.
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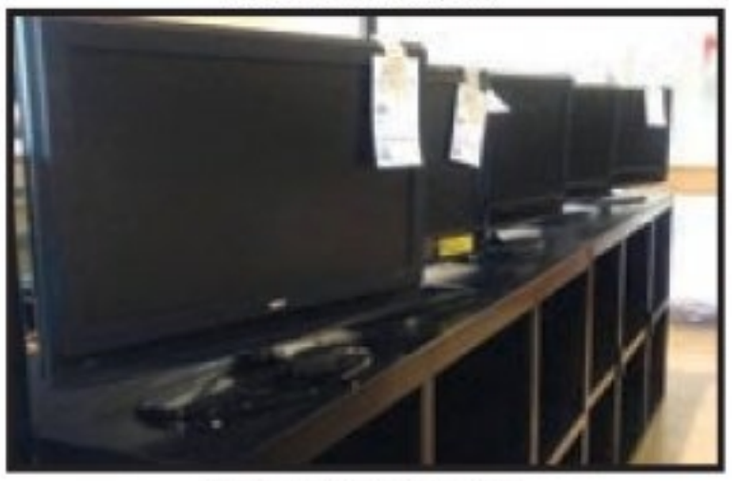

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The Phillies made sure Thursday to make Odubel Herrera a big part of their future plans. GETTY IMAGES

Phillies extend Herrera five years, guarantee him $30.5 million

Remember when the Phillies had money to burn, and did — singing big name free agents left and right en route to five straight division titles?

Well the Phillies are throwing cash around again, this time to a Phillies' player in the form of a big, five-year extension for Odubel Herrera. According to Philly.com's Matt Gelb he will make at least $30.5 million over the life of the deal and there will be two options at the end of the contract.

Herrera was rumored to be on the market to be traded during the stretch of 2016 but appears to be firmly in Philadelphia's future plans.

He has been their best hitter over the last two seasons, hitting .297 and .286 in 2015 and 2016 respectively.

He's been a durable and speedy outfielder and has also batted everywhere from one through four in the batting order. He has 83 extra-base hits and 43 stolen bases in two years with the Phillies — his only major league team.

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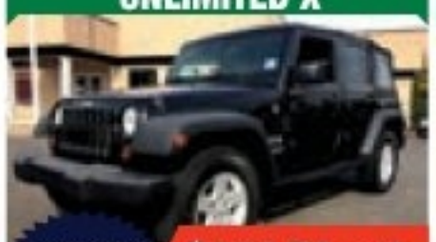
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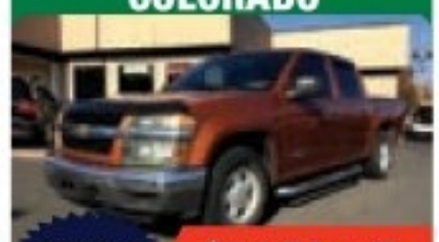
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Sixers' Brown on playing three big men: 'I really genuinely hope to pull it all off'

Can Brett Brown defy conventional basketball logic and get Nerlens Noel, Jahlil Okafor and Joel Embiid playing together?

ANDY JASNER
@AndyJasner
sports@metro.us

The starting lineup that everyone has been clamoring for finally came to fruition Wednesday night.

But the combination of Joel Embiid at power forward and Jahlil Okafor at center failed to produce the dividends that were expected.

Now, it's just one game, yet the 76ers were soundly defeated, 123-114, by the Toronto Raptors on their way to a 19th loss this season.

Embiid never looked comfortable and finished with nine points, five assists, four rebounds and two blocked shots. Embiid also turned an ankle in pregame warmups, sustained a bloody nose during the game and went leaping into the stands to chase a loose ball late in the game. Okafor did manage 17 points and four rebounds.

Moving forward — and with the pending return of Nerlens Noel — finding playing time for these three big men will be a monumental challenge.

"I am inclined to try that," Sixers coach Brett Brown said of pairing Embiid and Okafor together again. "I feel like what I said to everybody, I don't think we've been inconsistent with it once. If teams present it where it's clearly, responsible is a word that keeps coming to my mind, where we're not hurting the team. Like this bounce of developing our guys and experimenting and truly seeing what do we have. What do we have? That's my job. Draped under we want to win games. So that is a slippery slope? That's a funky line to walk sometimes. I do want to do it. We want to continue to try this."

Jo Jo and Jah — playing together — will be a work in progress. GETTY IMAGES

Maybe Embiid wasn't at full strength. Maybe he wasn't comfortable playing power forward.

Whatever the case, Embiid didn't flash the array of skills like previous games this season.

"I was just standing and I wasn't moving," Embiid said. "I was just standing on the perimeter and I wasn't active on defense."

Not exactly what you want to hear from your franchise cornerstone.

Okafor, on the other hand, appeared to revel in the new lineup. That's certainly positive.

"I was trying to do everything I can to make it work," Okafor said. "I know we've talked to coach a lot about playing me and Jo together. Eventually that day would come and I'm just trying to do my part to make sure it all works out and we help the team in a positive way."

Figuring out the starting lineup with minute restrictions, injuries and such young players makes Brown's job even more difficult. This is the fourth season of the Brown era and wins have been scarce. At some point, winning must be important and to accomplish the feat, Embiid, Okafor and Noel must receive minutes. Of course, a trade is always possible, but for now, this is the roster Brown is dealing with every night.

"I really genuinely hope to pull it all off," Brown said. "I want to try this. We need to try it. Here we are."

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Pursuant to the Pennsylvania Self Storage Act, Pennsylvania Statues, 73, Chapter 26, 1901 et seq., A Public Auction Will take Place on **12/21/16** at the below listed Public Storage Facilities for the follow units/Tenants. The Contents of which shall satisfy the Owners Lien. **Public Storage Located At, 2700 Grant Ave. Philadelphia PA 19114 at 11:00 AM (215) 698-8319.**

Renee Johnson, Anthony Hammerquist, Larry Rice, Brian Bruce, DANA HARGROVE - MOORE, Dennis Morris, Marline Dennis, Gus Bergmann, David Jackson, William Transue, Stuart Janoff, Jessica Spiewak, Shawnia Walton, Joseph Kellenbarz, Angie Stock, Dawn Daminski, Philip Pletcher, PAUL SLAVIN, PAUL SLAVIN, Clement Hipple, Lenette Thigpen-Robinson, Cassandra Brucker, Jerome Wolcott Jr. Lakisha Glasgow, Joseph Meade, Adam Haynes, Philip Pletcher

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Eileen Martello, Lakisha Murphy, Kelly Mcginniss, Angela Young, Ronald Frank, Donald Predmora, Cheryl Mcnally, Robert Hernandez

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Chante Tranye, Augusto Clay, Jessica Erickson, Benette Johnson-Scott, Lisa Kania, Jennifer Dawson, Gretchen Peck, Hedy Powers, Eugene Beaddy, Michele McCullough, Jay Bankowitz, Sandy Dewey, Thomas Williams, Norrise Rutherford, Kerry Wiedemeyer, Thomas Carney, Jason Lopez, Scott Scarpiello, James Leonard, Steven Posten Jr, Deanna Bembury, John Desilva, Jose Rodriguez-Ocasio, George Schiefer

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A016 - Byrd, Nelson • A124 - Thomas, Mark • A126 - Manson, Nancy • A150 - Johnson, Brittney • A178 - Seney, Theresa
A182 - Smith, Kianya • B194 - Lear, Barbara • B199 - Sapires, Tyrone • B205 - Nelson, Micah • B215 - Malone, Kenneth • B235 - Lawson, Tiffany
B275 - Clement, Annette • B282 - Andrews, Paul • B287 - Jewett, Tamika • B296 - Hancock, Erika • B315 - Butts, Eric • B317 - Johnson, Yolanda
B319 - Joyner, Sharon • B349 - Davis, Tammie • B358 - Taylor, Thomas • B419 - Dickens, Troy • B421 - Colclough, Willard • B463 - Mcfield, David
B496 - Harris, Towana • B533 - AMENS, LAWRENCE • B569 - Kinsey, Mack • B571 - Brown, Rodney • B572 - Bignoli, Shannah
C592 - Miller, Minerva • C661 - Richardson, Elizabeth • C672 - Childs, Cameron • C675 - Perry, Korinna • C719 - MORGAN, KEVIN
C720 - Silah, Madiety • C785 - Carter, Gwendolyn • C799 - Wragg, Richard • C803 - Jones, Anita • C854 - Chandler, Taya
C867 - Woodall, Stanell • C866 - Williams, Milton • C899 - Bennett, Venus • C902 - Murphy, Veronique

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A123 - Race, Scott • A516 - Brissett-Taylor, Jalisa
A703 - Coduto III, Mario • C7016 - Sampson, Yvonne

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B085 - DHurieux, Sharon • B098 - Anderson, Phillip
B115 - Shelton, Geraldine • B227 - Bailey, Jacqueline • C060 - Brown, Anthony
C063 - Alioto, Nancy • C072 - Coleman-Holden, Derrick

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1034 - Johnson, Christina • 4038 - Boswell, Deidre
4108 - Sheilds, Jared • 4130 - Thompson, Ashley

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A103 - Porter, Willie • A116 - Banks, Angela • A148 - Riggins, Melody • A157 - FOLK, LORI
B455 - Jackson, Cheyenne • B460 - Whitmore, Antoinelle • C533 - Wright, Tacorye • D814 - Macleod, Therin
D844 - MORRISON, ADRIENNE V • E1001 - Robinson, Sheila • E926 - Ezeadum, Latanya
F1264 - Chisholm, Donald • H1500 - Brown, Carla • H1503 - Mcknight Jr, Ronnie • H1630 - Dutton, Loethia

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C036 - LANDAU, Elias • C071 - Garner, Yvonne • D038 - Kelly, Annick
D100 - LANDAU, Elias • D253 - Megraw, Patrick • D262 - Murray, Jennifer
E264 - Loose, Deja • E276 - Lyons, Kerrianne

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1365 - Mcgee, Cheryl Ann • 2502 - Sullivan, Maureen

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1126 - Williams, Dina • 1171 - Jackson, Tonra • 3017 - Ligons, Valerie • 3136 - Babb, Karen
3190 - Haines, Robert • 3198 - Tazewell, Harriett • 3203 - Fisher, Michelle • B1016 - Goins, Jason
B1020 - Dilullo, Joseph • C1010 - Donoghue, Bryan • C1012 - Brennan, Treasa
C1016 - Thomson, Daniel • D1023 - Friedrich, Lynda • D1029 - DeGuardia, William

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A013 - Scarborough, Mary • B074 - Fee, Patrick • E205 - Williams, Darrin • E231 - Powers, Jennifer
E274 - Powers, Jennifer • E314 - Brooks, Marlena • F403 - Newsome, Christina

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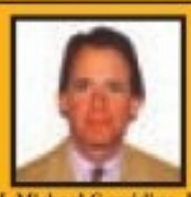

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To: Any Unknown John Doe, or Anyone Claiming Paternity of Baby Boy Feeney a/k/a Patrick James Higgins born on August 7, 2016. The mother of said child is Mercedes Feeney.

A Petition has been filed asking the Court to put an end to all rights you have to your child Baby Boy Feeney a/k/a Patrick James Higgins. The Court has set a hearing to consider ending your rights to your child. That hearing will be held in the Courtroom designated for Senior Judge Arthur Grim, Berks County Courthouse, 633 Court Street, Reading, PA 19601, on December 28, 2016 at 10:00 A.M. You have a right to attend the hearing. If you fail to attend the scheduled hearing, the Hearing will go on without you and the Court may end your rights to your child without your being present. You have a right to be represented at the Hearing by a lawyer. You should take this paper to your lawyer at once. If you do not have a lawyer, cannot afford one, go to or telephone the office set forth below to find out where you can get legal help.

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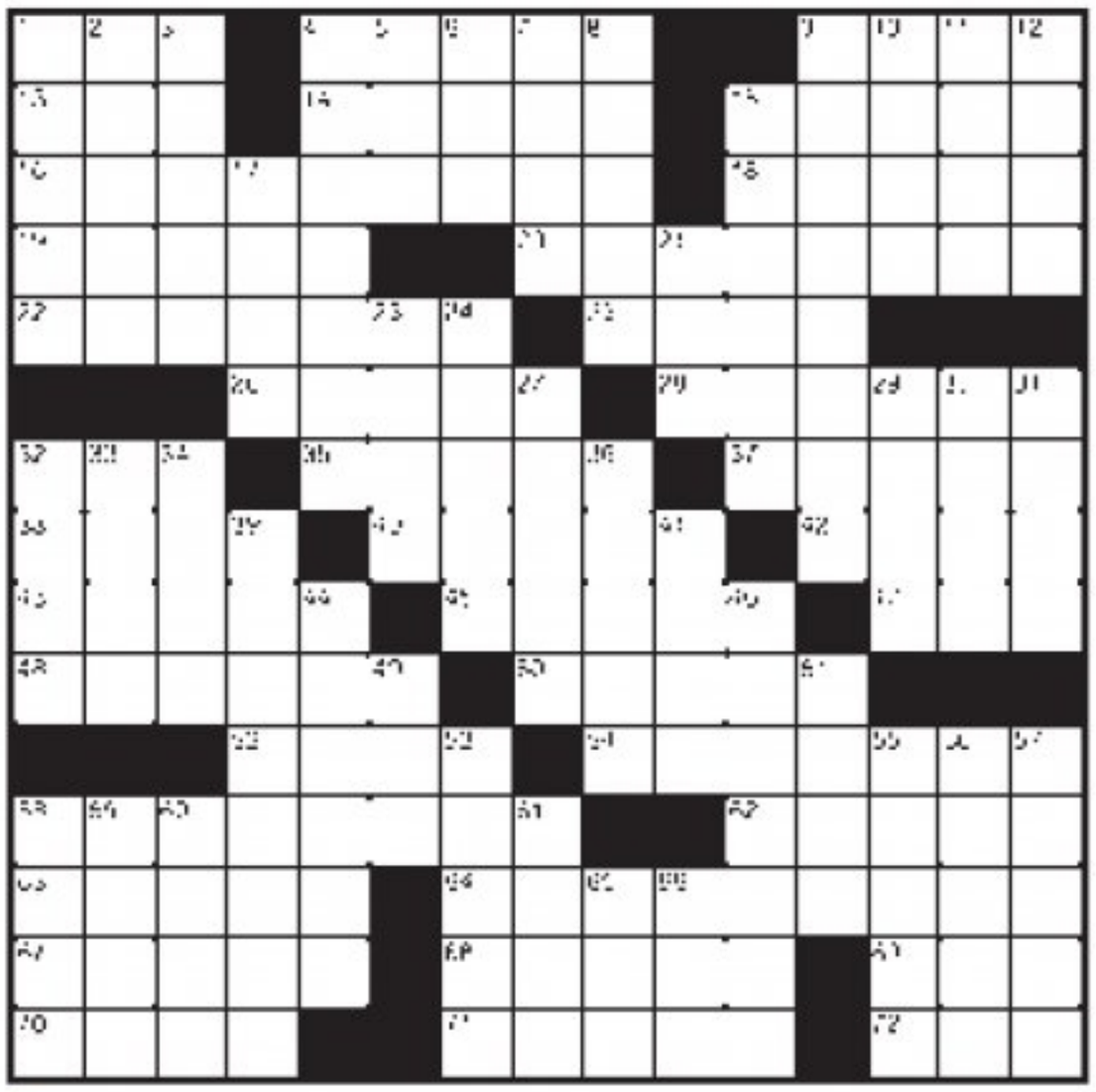

Across

1 "In" thing
4 Girl from Baja
9 Tobacco plug
13 Back when
14 English seaside resorts
15 Wet thoroughly
16 Ice Age elephants
18 Bach instrument
19 Rapiers
20 Has a quarrel with (2 wds.)
22 Last course
25 Festive log
26 Hit the sack
28 Spiral in space
32 B-movie pistol
35 Long for
37 Ms. Zellweger
38 DeMille genre
40 Ice cream and root beer
42 Zest
43 Poet Conrad --
45 Fountain treats
47 Earmark
48 Came down hard
50 Thigh bone
52 Leaf source
54 Goes back over
58 Cutting in two
62 Hold dear
63 Move on
64 Where mollusks zonk out (2 wds.)
67 Curly coifs
68 Sidekick
69 Zeta follower
70 Rockies, briefly
71 Big laughs
72 Untold centuries

Down

1 Illustrious
2 Slack-jawed
3 Rx amounts
4 One way to follow
5 Laid low
6 Rite answer (2 wds.)
7 Meeting, for short
8 Ore analysis
9 Victorian underwear
10 Sci-fi award
11 Hairy twin
12 What -- wrong?
15 Sand --
17 Harper of "Tender Mercies"
21 Strain, as an engine
23 Coral habitat
24 Wild ducks
27 Evidence
29 GP expertise
30 Warrior princess
31 Burglar of yore
32 Duffel filler
33 Samoa's capital
34 "Kon- --"
36 Auto-safety advocate
39 Peso fractions
41 Unlikely to bite
44 The jitters
46 Polls
49 Roman gods
51 Caboose's place
53 Tennyson's "-- Arden"
55 "The Zoo Story" penner
56 Because of (2 wds.)
57 Family car
58 Chowder morsel
59 Not right
60 Make a salary
61 Pita sandwich
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66 HBO alternative

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